(d) what steps are being taken for immediate release of sanctioned funds to avoid an imminent closure of this institution ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF EDUCATION AND CULTURE TN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI KRISHNA SAHI): (a) to (c) The Central Government provides funds for approved schemes and project*. The question of reimbursement does not arise. The 'budget provisions for the Asiatic Society for the year 1987-88 are Rs. 59. 00 lakhs (Plan) and Rs. 46. 38 Inkhs (Non-Plan). Funds have been released in three instalments during the current financial year, totalling Rs. 25. 91 lakhs under Plan and Rs. 20. 72 lakhs under Non-Plan. These include funds carried forward from 1986-87 under both Heads.

Releases of funds have been made in accordance with the usual procedure on receipt of relevant detailed information required. As the Society did not furnish the relevant particulars/clarifications sufficiently *in* advance and as the scrutiny of the same took some time, the Society did face some financial difficulty. The Society did send some communications to Government indicating financial hardship. The delay occurred mainly because the Asiatic Society did not furnish required information in full, in time.

(d) Further releases will be made in accordance with the usual procedure on receipt of complete details from the So ciety.

Medical equipments lying unused in the Safdarjung Hospital

1263. SHRI KALP NATH RAI:
SHRI SUDHA VIJAY JOSHI:
SHRI H\RVENDRA STNGH HANSPAL:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Governments attention has been drawn to a report which appeared in the Hindustan Times dated September 8. 1987 that some costly medical equipments were lying unused in the Safdariung Hospital of Delhi and 7—678RSS/87

(b) if so, what is the reaction of Gov-; ernment in the matter ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (KUMARI SAROJ KHAPARDE): (a) and (b) The Govern-| ment is aware of the newspaper report. However, the medical, equipment namely 'electronic lung machine' and 'operation tables' are being utilised ?

Memorandum from employees of ITI

1264. SHRI M. A. BABY:
SHRI K. MOHANAN:
SHRI SUKOMAL SEN:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Prime Minister bad received a memorandum from the employees of Indian Telephone Industries protesting against the move to import telecom equipments which the Indian telephone industry can produce; and

(b) if so, details of action taken thereon ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) While the Indian Telephone Industries Employees Union, in their memorandum have raised many issues and made various demands, the central theme was the need to set up electronic switching system factories at Bangalore and Rae Bareli for redeployment of as many of the employees as possible who may be rendered surplus as a result of phasing out of the strowger and crosbar production at these factories. There was also the demand to stop alleged plans to import 2 lakh lines of switching equipment annually at an estimated cost of Rs. 170 crores per year.

The Government is fully alive to the need for a strategy for redeployment of employees who are likely to be rendered surplus as a result of phasing out of the obsolete electro-mechanical switching system production at Bangalore and Rae

The problem of Bangalore is more im-Accordingly, the Government has a'ready decided to set up the second electronic switching system factory at Bangalore to produce 500. 0(10 lines a year of exchange equipment against the present production of about 1. 5 lakh lines a year of electro-mechanical switching system.

Indian Telephone Industries has already been given instructions to proceed to set up the production of one lakh lines a year of electronic rural automatic exchanges iRAX's) of I2X port capacity of D-DOT design. They have also been asked to set up production of another one lakh lines a year of 512 port electronic RAX's of C-DOT design as soon as the same has been cleared for produciion.

The question of adopting any other technology for the balance 3 lakh lines would arise only if at the stage of increasing the production capacity difficulties are experienced with the product based on this technology.

The problem at Rae Bareli is not so urgent. However, this is also being looked into. The Government has also set up a high pottered Committee under the Chairmanship of Chairman. SAIL to look into the problems of redeployment of staff likely to be rendered surplus due to phasing out of production of obsolete electro-mechanical exchange equipment, and other allied issues.

As far as the alleged plans to import 2 lakh lines of exchange equipment per annum is concerned, the Department has nr, such plans and therefore there is no case for stopping the same.

. Medical Research Project on (he Bhopal Gas Victims

@1265. SHRl N. E. BALARAM: SHRI SURAJ PRASAD:

Will the Minister ot /1EALTH AMI) FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Indian Council of Medical Research (1CMR)

Previously Unstarred Question 933, transferred from the 16th November. 1987.

has decided to terminate the medical research project on the Bhopal gas victim prematurely; and

(b) if so, what arc the details thereof and what are the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (KUMARI SAROJ KHAPARDE): (a) and (b) Two projects viz. (i) Thyroid status in MIC affected and unaffected are as of Bhopal a long term assessment and (ii) Clinical and forensic toxicological studies in MIC affected and unaffected are as of Bhopal tailed consideration by experts sines no positive findings were found.

Detention of Air India Airbus at Lagos

1266. SHRI J. P. GOYAL:
SHRIMATI KRISHNA KAUL: SHRI SOHAN LAL DHUSIYA: SHRI RAM CHANDRA
VIKAL: SHRI B. SATYANARAYAN
REDDY: SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: SHRI SURESH KALMADI: SHRI ANAND SHARMA: PROF. C. LAKSHMANNA:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

la) whether it is a fact that an Air lndia Airbus was impounded at Lagos in Nigeria in August. 1987 and if so, the reasons therefor;

(b) whether said Air lndia plans has since been got released; and if so, on what conditions;

(c) the loss suffered by Air lndia as a result of impounding of the plan- and tt hcther Government of lndia have claimed any compensation from the Nigerian Government;

(d) whether the Government had iince enquired into the circumstances in which the contraband heroin was seized from the plane;

(e) whe her any person has been penalised for carrying contraband heroin in the plane and if so, the details thereof; ! and